— LANCHESTER —

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

At the Census taken in April, 1911, the population of the Rural District of Lanchester was 32,237, and I estimate the population at the middle of the year 1913 at 33,526, and the returns made herewith are based on the latter figures.

The area of the district is 51,151 acres The surface is hilly, a ridge running from west to east divides the district into two unequal parts and branches of this ridge form hills and valleys ; the ridge being occupied by Urban Districts The surface consists of sand, shale, sandstone and clay forming the upper parts of the coal measures of the carboniferous series The population is located chiefly in a number of colliery villages with a large proportion of scantily peopled agricultural and moorland areas.

The nett deaths belonging to the district numbered 469, an increase on last year's number of 67. The deaths were at the rate of 14 49 per 1,000. The number of deaths occurring before the age of 1 year was 144 at the rate of 143·1 per 1,000 births registered. The number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases was 50 at the rate of 1·49 per 1,000, and from Diarrhœa 38, at the rate of 1·13 per 1,000. There occurred 29 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis), and 7 from other forms of Tuberculosis making an annual rate of (for 36 cases) 1·07 per 1,000. 15 deaths were caused by Cancer. 24 inquests were held during the year, and 3 uncertified deaths were registered,

The number of births registered belonging to the district was 1,006, corresponding to an annual rate of 30·06 per 1,000 There are now two Lady Health Visitors in the district and it is to be anticipated that the infant mortality will be materially reduced in future due to their work among the Mothers of the Babies.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

312 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, including 92 cases of Diphtheria, an increase of 67 over the number for 1912, and 183 cases of Scarletina an increase of 14 on the previous year. Erysipelas numbered 25, Enteric Fever 10, and Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and Poliomyelitis 1 each. These cases were situated as shewn in Table II.

37 cases were reported of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 16 of other forms of Tuberculosis. The distribution of these is also shewn in Table II. 16 deaths occurred in the district from Diphtheria a mortality of 17·39%. The rate of mortality points to a very beneficial effect of the provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin provided to the medical practitioners of the district and used in the early stages of the disease.

5 deaths occurred from Scarletina in a total number of cases of 183, a mortality of 2·7 per cent. Enteric Fever caused 4 deaths, Whooping Cough 5, Measles 15, Influenza 4, and Erysipelas 1. It has been necessary to close the schools at Hedley Hill and Malton Colliery during the year for prevalence of Measles, and the school at High Westwood for Diphtheria from 30th October to 21st November. The case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis died within a week of onset, and the case of Poliomyelitis has gradually improved.

With respect to the large number of cases of Scarletina and Diphtheria I have in addition to the Table II prepared a table shewing the occurrence of the cases during the year in the different months, and as to Diphtheria the cases occurring in each parish are shewn as they occur in the different months.

	Tota	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarletina ...	183	21	14	12	13	9	11	10	7	14	13	29	30
Diphtheria ...	92	...	1	2	3	15	6	9	9	5	19	5	18
Do. in													
Medomsley ...	46	...	.	1	1	3	2	4	5	3	11	3	13
Esh ...	19	...	1	...	1	5	1	4	2	...	3	...	2
Cornsay ...	14	...	...	...	1	6	2	1	2	...	1	1	...
Craghead ...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
Ebchester ..	3		...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Langley ...	2	.	...	...	..	...	1	..	...	1	...	...	...
Greencroft ...	1	..	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Knitsley ..	1	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	1	...	..	...

During the year there has been a great improvement in the condition of the back streets at Newhouse Road and Durham Road, Esh Winning, all the streets of the Consett Iron Co.'s property at Langley Park and also the back streets in the area at the east end of Langley Park. These improvements must have a beneficial effect on the health of the occupiers of the adjoining houses There are other back streets in the district which should be taken in hand as early as possible The water supply has been plentiful during the year and the

Weardale and Consett Water has been laid on to 30 houses which previously had an inadequate supply. There are occasions when the pressure at Burnhope is insufficient and some steps should be taken to give a better pressure.

At Derwentside Cottages the space between the streets is too little and the ashpits are too close to the houses. A great improvement to this property would be the asphalting of the back streets and the substitution of water-closets for the privies and ashpits so as to avoid the nuisance of scavenging the ashpits. There is also a great need of a road from these houses to the main road.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK.

Number of cases of Nuisances and structural defects in connection with dwelling-houses reported and observed	1445
Number of the above remedied... ...	1422
Number of cases of overcrowding reported and abated	17
Number of Cowkeepers	179
Number of Cowsheds	230
Number of Slaughter-houses	26
All the Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected	
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year	87
Number of Ash-closets substituted for insanitary Ashpit Privies	215
Number of Water-closets substituted for same	25
Plans have been approved for houses in number	77
Plans have been approved for other buildings in number	42
Number of houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act ...	424

Number of houses found defective	...	132
(Defects consisting of damp walls and floors, defective spouting, unpaved yards, and defective roofs)		
Number of closing orders made	...	10
Number of houses closed under orders	...	9
Number of houses closed without orders	...	9

28 houses at Wagtail Cottages, Craghead, will be closed as soon as the new houses now in course of erection are ready for occupation.

Sewage disposal works are provided for at Craghead, The Middles, Holmside, Peartree, Langley Park, Ushaw Moor, Esh Winning, Waterhouses Station area, Cornsay Colliery, Quebec, Malton Colliery, Croniwell and Hedleyhope Colliery.

Land irrigation is adopted at Burnhope, Maiden Law, Medomsley, Medomsley Edge, Bradley Cottages, Villa Real, Castleside, Templetown, Delves Terrace, and Cornsay Village.

At East Hedleyhope the sewage is discharged on to the ballast heaps, part of which is levelled to facilitate distribution.

At Derwent Cottages the sewage works have been abandoned owing to subsidence, and the sewage is now connected to the Benfieldside sewers

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BUCKHAM.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years. **LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
							of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	3	9	10	11	12	13
1908	31,502		1,152	36·6	536	17	66	13	162	140	482	15·3
1909	32,109		1,169	36·4	496	15	57	12	147	125	451	14
1910	32,109		1,066	33 1	439	13·6	57	8	109	102	390	12 1
1911	32,237		1,039	32·2	513	15 8	51	10	160	153	472	14·6
1912	32,502		1,035	31·5	446	13·7	63	19	94	90	402	12
1913	33,526	1009	1.006	30·06	497	14·1	47	19	144	143	469	14·49

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 51,151 Total population at all ages, 32,237.

Number of inhabited houses, 6,344. Average number of persons per house, 5.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913. LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. *e.g.* Parish or Ward of the District.													Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.																				
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards.	Consay.	Craghead.	Ebchester.	Esh.	Greencroft.	Hedleyfield.	Hedleyhope.	Knitsley.	Lanchester.	Langley.	Medomsley.	Muggleswick.	Satley.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	92	...	22	57	10	1	...	...	14	6	3	19	1	...	...	1	...	2	46	...	..	73
Erysipelas	25	1	...	...	3	8	9	3	3	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	6	1	9	..	1	...
Scarlet Fever	183	4	40	130	7	2	...	..	21	11	1	60	1	1	14	2	31	..	40	...	1	179
Enteric Fever	10	...	1	2	1	4	1	..	1	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	10
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	..	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	37	...	2	5	8	14	8	...	1	2	1	9	1	...	1	1	9	...	12	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	16	...	4	7	3	2	...	...	3	2	...	2	..	...	1	...	3	...	4	1	...	...
TOTALS	365	5	71	201	32	31	18	3	43	26	6	93	3	1	18	5	52	3	112	1	2	262

ANGLEY PARK AND LEADGATE ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913. LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occuring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes } Certified ...	466	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes } Uncertified ...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteric Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	2
Measles	15	7	8	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	5	..	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough...	5	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	16	..	2	5	8	1	...	...	..	6
Influenza	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	3
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	29	..	...	...	3	8	12	6	...	6
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	1	1	..	...	...	...	..
Cancer, malignant disease	15	...	...	1	...	1	2	8	3	1
Rheumatic Fever	7	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	...	...
Meningitis	7	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	29	...	...	...	1	...	7	13	8	2
Bronchitis	35	10	1	...	...	...	1	2	21	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	61	20	9	4	5	1	4	9	9	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	5	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	38	26	9	1	...	...	1	1	...	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	..
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	10	1	...	1	...	1	2	3	2	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	7	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth... ...	48	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	24	1	2	4	...	5	6	4	2	1
Suicide	1	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	53	11	1	4	3	2	2	12	18	8
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	39	10	1	...	...	...	2	1	25	14

TABLE IV.

LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes, Uncertified	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	4	7
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	..	..	2
Erysipelas	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	5
Convulsions	4	1	...	...	5	...	1	...	3	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	5	1	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	...	1	4	2	6	6	19
Diarrhœa	...	..	...	...	...	2	6	4	1	13
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	4	12
Gastritis	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Injury at Birth	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	..	4
Atelectasis	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	18	...	3	1	22	1	1	...	...	24
Atrophy, Debility and Malnutrition	4	...	2	3	9	7	5	1	2	24
Other Causes	...	..	...	1	1	2	1	1	...	5
Totals	34	1	6	6	47	20	28	24	25	144

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate 975, Illegitimate 31, Total 1,006.